

Sex Trafficking in Arizona

Daniel V. Garcia, Chief of Police

The View from the Street & Practical Recommendations

Lieutenant Jim Gallagher

Phoenix Police Department



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■ Evolution of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- Environmental factors
- Enforcement factors
- Economic factors

■ Evolution of the Vice Enforcement Unit

- From arresting our way out of the problem to a victim centered approach
- Street level enforcement to complex criminal investigations

■ Evolution of Vice Enforcement Unit Investigations

- Streets to Hotels to the Internet
- Interstate & International
- Technical Progression



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What are we seeing?

- Backpage.com continues to be a primary source for sex trafficking victims
 - Of the 14 juvenile victims we have recovered this year, 12 were located via Backpage.com or another adult services website
 - 5 were chronic runaways and/or in state care
 - 5 were previously the victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
 - 1 was trafficked by a previous victim who transitioned to victimizer
- Criminal Street Gang involvement
 - Rapidly becoming a key criminal franchise
 - CSG's have established sex trafficking territories city wide
 - CSG's tend to not deny involvement in Sex Trafficking as opposed to other criminal offenses



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What are we seeing?

- The volume of work can be overwhelming
 - Virtually every case originating in VEU can be designated as complex
 - Victim maintenance issues related to time to trial
 - Repeat victims, repeat suspects

- Victims service needs
 - More & more complex requiring a holistic response
 - Equal attention must be paid to adults
 - We must expect failures



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■ Investigative Workload – Phoenix Police Department

● Prostitution Cases Investigated with Arrests

2010	2011	2012
519	390	268

● Juvenile Prostitution Cases Investigated with Arrests

2010	2011	2012
29 (5%)	25 (6%)	53 (19%)



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Backpage.com Study

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■ Evolutionary Lessons Learned

- The single greatest influences on Sex Trafficking are Income potential & Technology
 - Backpage.com is the most effective use of technology to ensure greatest income potential through maximizing victim exposure & minimizing criminal exposure
- There is a degree of dispersion in all enforcement initiatives
 - Just because it can't easily be seen doesn't mean it isn't there
 - Just because we know about it doesn't mean everyone else does
- In order to effectively respond to Sex Trafficking all sectors must continue to evolve their thinking in order provide services to victims & ensure the accountability of Traffickers and Johns



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■ Recommendations

- White Paper legislative advocacy proposal
 - Close the age gap
 - DNA collection & retention
 - 4th arrest felony
 - Vacate convictions related to victimization
- Statewide law enforcement commitment to Sex Trafficking as a critical public safety consideration
 - Statewide training component necessary to ensure Arizona law enforcement properly equipped to investigate & prosecute Sex Trafficking cases



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Questions?

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